

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 30. (Cancelled)

31. **(Currently Amended)** [A] The process of claim 41 wherein the ~~{for the detection of HIV-3 retrovirus or of its RNA in a biological liquid or tissue, characterized by contacting nucleic acids contained in said biological liquid or tissue with a}~~ DNA probe ~~{containing}~~ contains at least 360 contiguous sequences corresponding to the genomic RNA of the HIV-3 retrovirus ~~{under stringent hybridization conditions, washing the hybrid formed with a solution preserving said stringent conditions, and detecting the hybrid formed}~~.

32. – 36. (Cancelled)

37. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe comprises SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or the complement thereof.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe corresponds to the nucleotide sequence coding for proteins p12, p16 or p25 of the HIV-3 retrovirus or the complement thereof.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe corresponds to the nucleotide sequence coding for glycoproteins gp41 or gp120 of the HIV-3 retrovirus or the complement thereof.

41. **(New)** A process for the detection of HIV-3 retrovirus or of its RNA in a biological liquid or tissue containing nucleic acid, characterized by:

- a) contacting nucleic acids contained in said biological liquid or tissue with a DNA probe;

- b) hybridizing the nucleic acid from the biological liquid or tissue with the DNA probe under stringent hybridization conditions to form a nucleic acid:DNA probe hybrid;
- c) washing the hybrid under stringent conditions; and
- d) detecting the presence of the nucleic acid:DNA probe hybrid;

wherein the DNA probe specifically hybridizes with the genomic RNA of the HIV-3 retrovirus deposited at the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures (ECACC) under No. V88060301.